

**REMARKS**

The Examiner is thanked for the kind allowance of claims 1-21 and 28.

Upon entry of the forgoing amendments, claims 1-21, 23, 25, 27, and 28 are pending in this application with claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 25, 27, and 28 being independent claims.

Claims 23, 25, and 27 have been amended. Claims 25 and 27 have been put into independent form and claim 23 now depends from claim 25.

Claims 22, 24, and 26 have been newly canceled, without prejudice.

**Objection to Claims**

Claims 24, 25, and 27 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 25 and 27 have been amended accordingly. Rather than amend claim 24 accordingly, claim 24 has been canceled and claim 23 has been amended to depend from amended claim 25. The effect is the same as amending claim 24 accordingly except that the result here is two independent claims instead of three.

**The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection**

Claims 22, 23, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by *Wanderer et al.* (US 5,491,796). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With this paper, these claims have been amended or canceled thus rendering this rejection moot. In view of the above, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Request for Allowance

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and an early allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

If any matters remain which could be resolved in a telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to expedite resolution of any such matters. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance, or at the least, narrow any issues for an appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN, REID, & PRIEST LLP

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